

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8673

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8673

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN, PFOR

SUBJ: POST-EMERGENCY DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN HAS STATED IN AN ALL-INDIA

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RADIO INTERVIEW THAT THE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY WILL NOT

AFFECT INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY, WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE BASED ON NON-ALIGNMENT. CHAVAN AND THE HEAD OF AN INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO HANOI HAVE SEPARATELY CITED INDIA'S INTEREST IN ASSISTING INDOCHINA'S RECONSTRUCTION. IN HIS JUNE 28 INTERVIEW, CHAVAN ALSO POINTED TO SEVERAL HIGH-LEVEL VISITS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO AND THE INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER. BUT DESPITE THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S EFFORT TO CONVEY A BUSINESS-AS-USUAL IMPRESSION, THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF SOME HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS HAVE IN FACT BEEN AFFECTED BY THE POLITICAL CRISIS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN AN INTERVIEW TO ALL-INDIAN RADIO JUNE 28, INDIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CHAVAN SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT THAT THE PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY 'WILL AFFECT IN ANY WAY OUR FOREIGN POLICY.' CHAVAN EXPLAINED THAT INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY WAS BASED ON CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES, "THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACE, INDEPENDENCE, FRIENDSHIP AND ACTIVE COOPERATION WITH ALL COUNTRIES," AND THAT THESE PRINCIPLES WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY "WHATEVER IS BEING DONE HERE..." THESE PRINCIPLES WERE ENSHRINED IN THE CONCEPT OF NON-ALIGNMENT.

2. CHAVAN COMMENTED SPECIFICALLY THAT INDIA WAS NOW CONSIDERING HOW IT COULD HELP SOUTH VIETNAM, NORTH VIETNAM AND LAOS TO RECONSTRUCT THEIR DAMAGED ECONOMIES WITH INDIA'S LIMITED RESOURCES. ACCORDING TO A REUTER REPORT CARRIED HERE, THE SPEAKER OF THE LOWER HOUSE OF THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT, DR. DHILLON PARTIALLY ECHOED CHAVAN'S COMMENT WHILE ON A GOOD-WILL VISIT TO NORTH VIETNAM. DHILLON WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID AT A RECEPTION IN HANOI JUNE 29 THAT THE ENTIRE WORLD SHOULD "FULFILL THEIR GREAT OBLIGATION OF HELPING THIS NATION REBUILD ITS WAR-RAVAGED ECONOMY," AND THAT THE INDIAN PEOPLE WOULD CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THAT END.

3. IN SEEKING TO PROJECT THE IMPRESSION THAT INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY HAS NOT BEEN TOUCHED BY THE EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK, CHAVAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT INDIAN WOULD BE HOSTING IN THE NEAR FUTURE THE PRESIDENTS OF GUYANA AND MEXICO, THE PRIME MINISTER OF THAILAND, AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF INDONESIA. CHAVAN SAID HE WAS ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CONFERENCE OF NON-CONFIDENTIAL

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ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS IN LIMA. HE FURTHER SAID THAT INDIA IS TRYING TO BUILD UP ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND IS NOW LOOKING FOR "CONCRETE AREAS" FOR COOPERATION WITH THE GULF STATES.

4. COMMENT--DESPITE CHAVAN'S EFFORT TO CONVEY A BUSINESS-AS-USUAL IMPRESSION THE POLITICAL CRISIS HAS ALREADY SCUTTLED

SEVERAL HIGH-LEVEL VISITS AND DELAYED OR PUT ON ICE OTHERS. IN THE PAST FEW DAYS MRS GANDHI REPORTEDLY HAVE FORMAL NOTICE TO THE CUBAN EMBASSY THAT THE EARLIER-PLANNED VISIT TO HAVANA IS OFF. DESPITE HER EARLY JUNE CLNCELLATION OF A STATE VISIT TO MEXICO CITY, THE GOI IS STILL PREPARING HOWEVER TO HOST THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO HERE IN LATE JULY. THE SINGAPOREAN AMBASSADOR HAS TOLD US THAT PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW WAS PLAN- NING A VISIT TO DELHI IN SEPTEMBER BUT HAS NOW CANCELLED OUT IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION.

5. WITH RESPECT TO CHAVAN'S MENTION OF VISITS IN THE NEAR FUTURE BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THAILAND AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF INDONESIA, OFFICIALS AT THE THAI AND INDONESIAN EMBASSIES IN DELHI WENT TO SOME LENGTHS IN CON- VERSATIONS WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER TO MAKE CLEAR THAT BOTH EVENTS HAD BEEN TALKED ABOUT FOR SOME WEEKS BEFORE THE POLITICAL CRISIS ERUPTED. THE THAI OFFICIAL SAID THE THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR OFFERED AN INVITATION TO THE THAI PRIME MINISTER DURING HIS INITIAL COURTESY CALL IN MAY OR EARLY JUNE, AND THAT THE INVITATION WAS ACCEPTED ONLY "IN PRINCIPLE." ACCORD- ING TO THE OFFICIAL, THE VISIT WOULD PROBABLY NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL AT LEAST OCTOBER. THE INDONESIAN EMBASSY OFFICER CON- FIRMED TO US THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK WOULD BE VISITING DELHI FOR A DAY OR TWO AT THE END OF JULY, BE HE PLACED THE VISIT SQUARELY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ANNUAL MINISTERIAL MEETINGS HELD ATERNATELY IN JAKARTA AND DELHI. HE SAID THE INDONESIANS HAD EARLIER AGREED TO AN INDIAN REQUEST FOR A WEEK'S DELAY IN MALIK'S VISIT, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF THE PRE-EMERGENCY CRISIS.

6. THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENT ON THE TRAVEL FRONT IS A REPORT CARRIED IN THE INDIAN PRESS JUNE 29 THAT THE FORIEGN MINISTER OF SOMALIA IS ARRIVING JULY 4 ON A WEEK-LONG OFFICIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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VISIT. PTI COMMENTS THAT THE VISIT "ASSUMES SIGNIFICANCE AT THE TIME WHEN THE UNITED STATES IS PLANNING TO EXPAND ITS ITS BASE FACILITIES IN DIEGO GARCIA." THE FACT THAT CHAVAN DID NOT MENTION IT IN HIS JUNE 28 INTERVIEW SUGGESTS THIS VISIT MAY HAVE BEEN LAID ON HURRIEDLY. SAXBE

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